(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked the Air India to improve its performance and costs cutting;

(d) if so, whether Air India has prepared any costs cutting plan so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the cost cutting plan has been implemented so far and the extent to which performance of the Air India has been improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. NACIL has taken the following initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company and is mainly focused on Cost Reduction (Target of Rs. 1500 crores) and Revenue Enhancement (Target of Rs. 1200 crores).

The turnaround plan presented to the Committee of Secretaries on 29th August, 2009 has been broadly divided Into 0-9 months, 9-18 months & 18-36 months. These are broadly segregated under Operational efficiency, Product Improvement, Organization Building & Financial Restructuring.

Violation of safety measures during take off of plane

460. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft took off from Dumka to Ranchi recently in the lights of some jeeps or cars;

(b) whether it is also a fact that safety measures were compromised in this case;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the plans being made to prevent recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) On 19.10.2009, C - 525 aircraft VT - PSB of M/s Orbit Aviation took off after sunset from Dumka Airstrip, which is an uncontrolled airfield, in the twilight period. Investigation revealed that there was darkness and therefore lights of the vehicles present by the side of Airstrip were switched on, though they were not used for the purpose of lighting the runway for departure of the aircraft.

(b) and (c) Investigation revealed that the aircraft took off after sunset, in violation of safety guidelines and Visual Flight Rules. Based on investigation both the pilots were grounded for 15 days and were given a warning.

(d) Guidelines already exist on the subject and operators have been advised to strictly follow them.